

## **Veterans/Military Enactments by the Minnesota Legislature During the Year 2001 Session**

This information brief lists 2001 legislative enactments directly related to the military and veterans in Minnesota. The brief is intended for use by legislators and other interested parties as a reference guide. The brief categorizes the enactments into three broad categories: appropriations; policy changes; and veterans memorials.

---

### **Table of Contents**

<b>Appropriations</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Policy Changes</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Veterans Memorials</b> .....	<b>8</b>

## Appropriations

(These figures do not reflect any changes made by the 2002 Legislature or by executive order.)

### Department of Military Affairs

<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Citation</b>
\$14,121,000	\$14,021,000	Total appropriations	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 17</a>
186,000		For higher than expected fuel costs for training and community centers	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 17</a>
7,141,000	7,244,000	Maintenance, training, and community centers (up from \$6.8 million and \$6.9 million the prior biennium)	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 17</a>
2,049,000	1,856,000	General support	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 17</a>
75,000		National Guard youth camp	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 17</a>
4,856,000	4,857,000	Enlistment incentives (tuition reimbursement, re-enlistment bonus, etc; up from \$2.4 million and \$2.4 million the prior biennium)	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 17</a>
75,000	75,000	Emergency services when ordered to active service under Minn. Stat. § 192	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 17</a>
191,000 (one-time)		Guard Our Youth Program, for at risk and underserved youth aged 9 to 16	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 3, art. 2, § 16</a>

### Department of Veterans Affairs

<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2003</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Citation</b>
\$ 4,419,000	\$4,484,000	Total appropriation	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 18</a>

### Housing Finance Agency/Homeless Veterans Housing Program

Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Purpose	Citation
\$420,000		\$420,000 of the unobligated and unencumbered balance in the local government unit housing account under Minn. Stat. § 462A.202, is transferred to the housing trust fund under Minn. Stat., § 462A.201, for loans and grants to assist in the development, construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation of supportive and permanent housing to serve veterans and single adults who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The loans or grants must be used for at least two housing projects that: (1) are located on property owned by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or other property that could be obtained at no cost; (2) provide or coordinate health and social services needed by the residents; and (3) are a collaborative partnership between community agencies and local units of government or the federal government.	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> spec. sess., ch. 4, art. 1, § 5, subd. 16(d)</a>

### Veterans of Foreign Wars

Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Purpose	Citation
\$55,000	\$55,000	Total appropriations	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 19</a>

### Military Order of the Purple Heart

Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Purpose	Citation
\$20,000	\$20,000	Total appropriations	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> spec. sess., ch. 10, art.1 § 20</a>

## Disabled American Veterans

Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Purpose	Citation
\$13,000	\$13,000	Total appropriations	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> spec. sess., ch. 10, art. 1, § 21</a>

## Veterans Home Board

Fiscal Year 2002	Fiscal Year 2003	Purpose	Citation
\$30,948,000	\$30,030,000	Total appropriations. Cost of care must be based on 100 percent occupancy. Deficiency fund: \$2.0 million of the appropriation in fiscal year 2002 is contingent upon the board's submittal of a fiscal report and the approval of the Commissioner of Finance.	<a href="#">Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> spec. sess., ch. 9, art. 17 § 4</a>

## Policy Changes

### National Guard Tuition Reimbursement Program

[Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess., ch. 10, art. 2, sec. 64](#)

Increases to 80 percent (from 75 percent) the post-secondary educational tuition reimbursement level for eligible National Guard members. This percentage is pegged to the cost of tuition for an undergraduate college of liberal arts program at the University of Minnesota, and is the applicable rate for nearly all participating Guard members. This legislation also increased the reimbursement rate for medical students attending a public educational institution in Minnesota or outside the state from 50 percent to 80 percent of the cost of their medical school tuition. This enactment expires June 30, 2003.

### Militia, Definition Clarified

[Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess., ch. 10, art. 2, sec. 62](#)

Clarifies that the state militia includes only residents of the state, as well as members of the Minnesota National Guard.

## **Adjutant General, Qualifications and Rank**

Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess.,  
ch. 10, art. 2, sec. 63

Provides that the adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard— which by statute has long been a major general rank (a two-star general officer)— may be promoted to the highest rank authorized under federal law. It also clarifies current law stipulating that to qualify for promotion to the rank of major general, the adjutant must have served in the Minnesota National Guard for at least 20 years, and in the rank of brigadier general (a one-star general) for at least one year.

## **National Guard Armories (i.e., Training and Community Centers)**

Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess.,  
Ch. 10, art. 2, secs. 65, 66,  
and 67

Makes small clarifications in the laws governing the construction of National Guard training centers, their conveyance to the state, and the disposal of unused building sites.

## **Benefits; Educational Assistance for War Orphans and Veterans**

Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess.,  
ch. 10, art. 2, secs. 68 and  
69

Increases to \$750 (from \$350) the one-time post-secondary tuition benefit level for veterans, as well as for any children of veterans who have died from military service-related causes. Also removes the ten-year limit for using such benefits.

## **Southwest Asia War Veteran, Educational Benefits**

Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess.,  
ch. 1, art. 1, sec. 3, subd. 2,  
last paragraph

This appropriations rider continues the funding for a program that waives a portion of tuition costs at state technical schools for eligible Southwest Asia War veterans, as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, section 136F.28. This statute currently provides for a grant of up to \$1,000 per year to Southwest Asia War veterans enrolled in a technical college program. (Benefits are limited to veterans who enroll within two years of date of discharge.)

## **Lifetime License Plates for Veterans, National Guard Member, and Reservists**

Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess.,  
ch. 8, art. 2, sec. 32

Stipulates that the special motor vehicle license plates for veterans, National Guard members, and other military reservists are valid for the lifetime of the recipient and do not expire. (Most motor vehicle license plates are issued effective for a seven-year period, and they must be renewed at the time of the next registration of the vehicle.)

## **“Stamped” License Plates for Veterans, National Guard Members, and Reservists**

[Laws 2001, 1st sp. sess., ch. 8, art. 2, sec. 33](#) Broadens the exemption from the special license plate design law to exempt veterans, National Guard members, and reservists from being limited to the “decal-style” plates. Thus, when applying for special plates, people in these groups will once again be given “stamped plates” designating their special status.

## **Veterans Homes, Interest Payment on Veteran Accounts**

[Laws 2001, ch. 111](#) Provides for the payment of interest on the account of any veteran who is a resident of a state veterans home and who chooses to deposit cash with the home. Previously, no interest has been paid to veterans on such accounts.

## **Veterans Homes, Planned Giving, Accounting Control**

[Laws 2001, ch. 75](#) Tightens the fiscal accounting procedures relating to proceeds stemming from planned giving to the state veterans homes.

## **Veterans, Potluck Dinners**

[Laws 2001, ch. 65](#) Provides an exception to health law restrictions, thereby explicitly permitting schools and “patriotic organizations” (e.g., veterans organizations) to host potluck dinners.

## **Military Recruiters, Student Information**

[Laws 2001, ch. 202, sec. 4](#) Requires secondary schools to provide student names, addresses, and phone numbers to military recruiters, and to inform students and parents of their right to block the release of such information by schools. Recruiters may not disseminate such identifying information to anyone but recruiters.

## **Honor Guard, Gambling Lawful Purpose**

[Laws 2001, ch. 96, sec. 6](#) Extends the definition of “lawful purpose” under charitable gambling law to include marching events in states contiguous to Minnesota.

## **Railroad Unemployment Insurance for Veterans, Resolution**

Laws 2001, res. 5

A resolution urging Congress to amend the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act to allow railroad employees collecting retirement pay to also be eligible for railroad unemployment and sickness benefits if they otherwise meet the qualifications of these benefit programs.

## **Income and Franchise Taxes, Active Duty Personnel**

Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess.,  
ch. 5, art. 9, sec. 2

Amends Minnesota tax code to narrow the definition of “resident,” such that any member of the armed forces of the United States or United Nations who is on active service duty stationed outside Minnesota is defined as a nonresident for state income tax purposes. This enactment effectively exempts such persons from Minnesota individual income tax on income from all sources (including investment income), irrespective of where it is earned. It may also have the secondary effect of precluding certain low- ranking military personnel from qualifying for certain refundable state tax credits.

This legislation is effective for tax year 2001 and thereafter; however, any affected individual must still file a Minnesota tax return for tax year 2001 in order to be refunded any amount of state withholding that occurred prior to implementation of the law. To ensure cessation of further withholding, the individual may also need to file a revised W-4 form with the military employer.

## **Refund of College Tuition Upon Military Enlistment**

Laws 2001, 1<sup>st</sup> sp. sess.,  
ch. 1, art. 2, sec. 17

Entitles a student resident to a refund of tuition paid at a state college or university if the student enlists or is inducted into the military prior to the termination of the school year.

## Veterans Memorials

### Plaque, Bataan Death March

[Laws 2001, ch. 115](#)

Authorizes placement of an honorary plaque in the Capitol rotunda in honor of the 194<sup>th</sup> Light Tank Battalion and other U.S. Armed Forces who were ordered to surrender to the Japanese in the Philippines and who were forced to undergo the ten-day Bataan death march into captivity. Authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to accept contributions from private sources to cover the costs. (No appropriation.)

### Plaque, Honoring WWII Civilians

[Laws 2001, ch. 125](#)

Authorizes placement of an honorary plaque in the Capitol mall to honor the thousands of civilian men and women who participated directly in the World War II war effort and who years later were designated as veterans by Congress. (No appropriation.)

### Combat Wounded Veterans Day

[Laws 2001, ch. 104](#)

Designates August 7<sup>th</sup> of each year as “Combat Wounded Veterans Day” in honor of those members of the U.S. Armed Forces whose sacrifices have entitled them to wear the Purple Heart Decoration.